

Remarks by Governor Granholm

Thank you Gloria (Jeff, director of MDOT), thanks Kirk (Stuedle, chief deputy director of MDOT).

I also want to give special thanks and a warm welcome to Rodney Slater who is joining us here this morning. Rodney is the former U.S. Secretary of Transportation under President Clinton and is now a partner in a law firm in Washington, D.C. You'll have a chance to hear from him later today during his keynote address.

And of course, I want to extend a hearty welcome and good morning to all the other dignitaries and distinguished guests with us today.

Your presence underscores not just the importance of a viable and forward looking transportation policy for our state, but also the critical role Michigan's transportation system plays both nationally and internationally.

So I want to start by thanking you all for lending us your time, your minds, and your passion to make Michigan's transportation system a magnet for jobs, growth, people, quality of life, and economic activity.

We are at a unique moment in our state's history: never before in Michigan's history has there been a Summit representing all of Michigan's transportation system. There are nearly 500 participants, a diverse group with 8 modes of transportation, 65 local units of government, and 13 representatives of the aging and disability communities here today, just to mention a few.

The diversity personifies my administration's commitment to inclusion and my fundamental belief that excellence is best achieved through a creative process that draws upon the innovation and ingenuity of people committed to the single goal of making Michigan the best state to live and work in America.

I believe together we can distill the best ideas from the lot and take what some may view as cacophony of voices and turn them into a harmony of views.

Folks, that's how I operate. I want everyone to be partners in the success of our state – and that is why it probably looks like to some of you, that we've got everyone in the state of Michigan at this summit today.

But that's okay. There is a method to the madness.

TEAM MDOT spent a lot of time developing the Summit concept and leading the efforts of the Summit Planning Team.

They invited over 75 key partners (industry, local and federal government, interested stakeholder organizations, local transportation providers, and other state agencies) to participate in a series of workshops. Together they met for 12 days, and I mean entire days, over the course of six months, to learn about key issue areas so they could synthesize the breadth of information available and turn it into manageable breakout sessions.

And believe me, by the end of the day, you will appreciate their efforts.

Their charge was to craft the framework for a 21st century Michigan transportation system that is second to none in its design and efficacy. And that's a very heavy responsibility when you are home to a place called the Motor City and at the very center of the automobile/transportation universe.

That is why we had to make sure that everyone had a seat at the table. Folks, crafting a 21st century transportation system entails much more than concrete, asphalt, bricks and mortar. It's vastly more complex than building highways and mass transit systems.

It's about building and connecting communities. It's about creating livelihoods, economic stability and reaching out beyond our borders and comfort zones.

Whether you are talking about building bike trails for city streets, expanding highways for more automobiles, developing mass transit systems to more easily link workers to their jobs or developing rocket ships to take us to faraway planets, at its root you are talking transportation policy.

In short, it's about creating and maintaining civilization – and that is not an over statement.

Just take a moment to think about these little Michigan transportation facts and what they ultimately meant for our way of life as Americans:

- Ford Motor Company, which just celebrated its 100th year and is well known for its automobile accomplishments, was also involved in the infancy of the aviation industry. By 1927 the Ford Tri-Motor was the first American all-metal airliner and became for that time the industry standard. It was at Ford Airport in Dearborn that where the world's first radio-guided flight of a commercial airliner was made, and where the country's first airline terminal for passenger use was constructed.
- Adjacent to the airport was the world's first airport hotel – the Dearborn Inn.
- Michigan also had the first concrete highway - In 1909, Wayne County Road Commission built the first mile of

concrete highway – Woodward Avenue between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Detroit.

- Then, fifty years ago, we took an incredible stand when we triumphed in a challenge of extraordinary political, economic, architectural and physical dimensions. In 1953, the state issued nearly \$100 million in bonds so work could begin on a bridge - the Mighty Mac - that would join the two peninsulas of our one state. Today, most of us cannot imagine a Michigan without it. Fifty years ago, almost no one could imagine a Michigan with it.
- The Bridge literally arose from citizen vision that extended far beyond what politicians and bureaucrats thought achievable. It was built with a magnificent mix of bold design, artistry, courage and sheer ironworker skill. There is no greater symbol of our belief in One Michigan, and no greater testament to the strength of our Michigan spirit.

Nowhere does our spirit soar higher than when hard work is united with innovation - to build stronger bonds of community

as we strive to create a vision for Michigan's transportation system.

In nearly all the cases I mentioned Michigan was the innovator; at the cutting edge of new technology and ideas, only to be followed by the rest of the country.

I expect the same result once we settle on a new plan for crafting a transportation policy for the 21st century. It is our history and destiny all at once.

So all of you at this summit this morning have a tremendous legacy from which to build upon. You are standing on very big shoulders and the world expects great things from Michigan - from YOU - especially because it relates to the transportation industry.

But I know you are up to that challenge. I believe in each and everyone of you. I know that the work you do at this summit will someday provide the template for other states and in deed other nations.

You are at the start of something big.

That is why we have invited everyone from environmental groups, the transportation industry, SEMCOG, community activists, business executives and our Canadian partners, to join in creating the broadest possible cross section of people dedicated to creating and implementing our vision for a new transportation system for Michigan.

While I trust the wisdom of this august group of leaders, I hope you will allow me to imagine – out loud if I may – just what a new transportation policy and system will encompass.

I apologize, but this is an issue very near and dear to my heart.

My hope is when all is said and done that we will develop a transportation system and create an understanding among our citizens based upon a strategy that envision a Michigan whose quality of life is unparalleled. One whose natural resources are accessible and treasured and whose cities and communities are magnets for economic opportunities and pulse with cultural life.

Also, whose citizens are involved in every aspect of building this great state and where public service and service to others is exalted. And, where we are committed to a bright future for every child and family.

So friends, your mission today and tomorrow is to create a vision for the future of transportation in Michigan and identify action plans so that over time we will see that vision unfold.

You already know that Michigan's extensive transportation system is an integral part of our everyday lives; it is vital to our communities, to economic development and to the quality of life we all enjoy.

Transportation is the backbone of achieving my vision for Michigan's future - to make Michigan the best place in the country to live, work, and raise a family. All of these elements hinge on extensive, efficient, and adaptive transportation system.

As many of you know, I, my Cabinet, and state departments and agencies have defined our State's top values as Inclusion, Integrity, Teamwork, and Excellence. I am certain

these values rank very highly with each of you as well. This Summit exemplifies all four of these values.

- The nine key areas issue areas in which you will be working over the next two days are:
 - Asset Management
 - Research and Evaluation
 - Land Use
 - Mobility Options
 - Communication, Consciousness Raising & Public Involvement
 - Safety
 - Commerce and Trade
 - Coordination, Cooperation & Connectivity
 - Funding
- No one in this room would disagree that this group has a difficult assignment. Yet it is an assignment essential to moving Michigan forward in its economic recovery.
- It will require cooperation and results - which is why we are calling on the expertise of so many from diverse sectors of our transportation community.

As I've said before, only challenge produces the opportunity for greatness. So, we are challenged, and this is our time for greatness.

My challenge, and my hope, is that you accept the invitation at this Summit to become the change you want to see in Michigan's transportation system. Granted, these are not easy times for us; we continue to work in the rain, but let's not let it dampen our spirits here today and tomorrow. The future remains bright.

I want to thank you for helping me create this vision for Michigan. And thank you for your commitment to serve. And once again thank you Team MDOT for all your effort in planning the activities and events of the next two days.

God Bless.